

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03859 181556Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
FBOE-00 MCT-01 JUSE-00 SY-05 /067 W
-----084434 190000Z /65

R 172217Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5213
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3859

DIA FOR AH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PINT, ES, GT
SUBJECT: CIRCULATION ALLEGED CIA DOCUMENT

1. ON AUGUST 16 I RECEIVED FROM A SALVADORAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONTACT A COPY OF A DOCUMENT WHICH HE SAID WAS WIDELY DISSEMINATED TO SALVADORAN FAMILIES SPENDING THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS IN MIAMI. ACCORDING TO MY CONTACT THE DOCUMENT WAS DELIVERED BY BEING SLIPPED UNDER APARTMENT DOORS AND IN SOME CASES WAS DELIVERED TO ADDRESSES OF SALVADORAN FAMILIES STAYING IN MIAMI INCOGNITO, THAT IS, HAVING APARTMENTS IN A CORPORATION NAME. THUS THE SOURCE OF THE DOCUMENT HAD INSIDE KNOWLEDGE ON THOSE FAMILIES. HE SAID IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS THE WORK OF THE CIA AND THAT IT COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE EMBASSY. HE ASKED ME NOT TO REVEAL HIS NAME SINCE HE FEARED SOMEBODY MIGHT GET HURT.

2. ACCORDING TO MY INFORMANT, AS MANY AS 50 COPIES OF THE DOCUMENT WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THIS WAY TO SALVADORAN FAMILIES, MOSTLY WEALTHY, VACATIONING OR TEMPORARILY RESIDING IN MIAMI. HE ESTIMATED OVER 250 FAMILIES NOW HAVE APARTMENTS OR HOUSES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 03859 181556Z

IN THE MIAMI AREA. THE PURCHASE OF CONDOMINIUM APARTMENTS IN MIAMI HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE INVESTMENT OF WEALTHY SALVADORANS AND HAS INCREASED GREATLY AFTER THE POLITICAL TURMOIL OF RECENT MONTHS. ANOTHER CONTACT ALSO TOLD ME THAT MANY OF THESE FAMILIES HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED TELEPHONE THREATS IN MIAMI, THE GIST GENERALLY BEING, "WE'LL FIND YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO."

3. THE DOCUMENT, NEATLY TYPED IN GOOD ENGLISH, PURPORTS TO DESCRIBE A "PATTERN OF SYSTEMATIC TERRORISM" WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S. IT STATES THAT A NUMBER OF NON-COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH BEGAN WITH THE "PATRIOTIC" MOTIVATION OF COUNTERACTING COMMUNIST TERRORISM, HAVE TURNED INTO GANGSTER ORGANIZATIONS PREYING ON THE WEALTHY CLASSES OF EL SALVADOR. IT TRACES THE CONNECTION BETWEEN A TERRORIST CUM GANGSTER ORGANIZATION REPORTEDLY LED BY JORGE "KOKI" ZIMERI SAFIE AND GUATEMALAN SECURITY FORCES IN THE EARLY 70'S, THE RISE OF A GROUP OF TERRORISTS WITHIN THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES TYPIFIED BUT NOT FULLY CONTROLLED BY COL. JOSE FRANCISCO RENE CHACON, THE GROUP'S ALLIANCE WITH THE ZIMERI GANG AND THE TEMPORARY ELIMINATION OF THE LATTER IN A BLOOD FEUD WITH GUATEMALAN SECURITY FORCES AND PRESIDENT LAUGERUD PERSONALLY. IT STATES THAT THE "CHACON GROUP" HAS CONTINUED TO OPERATE, KIDNAPPING AND/OR SHAKING DOWN WEALTHY SALVADORANS AND SUGGESTS THAT THE GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS OF, AMONG OTHERS, CHICO DE SLOA, BENJAMIN SOL MILLET AND ROBERTO POMA, DISGUIISING ITS ACTIONS AS THE WORK OF LEFTIST TERRORISTS OR THE ZIMERI GANG. IT ALSO CITES "VAGUE REPORTS" THAT ANEP AND FARO HAVE FORMED "ULTRA SECRET ACTION UNITS" TO COUNTERACT SECURITY FORCE GANGSTERISM.

4. AS THE DEPARTMENO IS AWARE, COL. CHACON WAS DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION AND OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (ANSESAL) AT THE TIME AMCIT RONALD RICHARDSON DISAPPEARED, IN THE CUSTODY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03859 181556Z

OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE. ALTHOUGH THE DOCUMENT DOES NOT MENTION THE RICHARDSON CASE, ITS GOOD ENGLISH STYLE AND EXTENSIVE ATTACK ON CHACON LED SOME SALVADORAN RECIPIENTS, ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY CONTACT, TO CONCLUDE THAT IT IS THE WORK OF THE USG, SPECIFICALLY THE CIA WITH EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT, IN RETALIATION FOR RICHARDSON'S DEATH OR FOR OTHER UNSPECIFIED REASONS. I DENIED THAT ANY ELEMENT OF THE USG, INCLUDING THE CIA, COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOCUMENT.

5. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO VERIFY MANY OF THE DETAILS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN GUATEMALAN AND SALVADORAN GROUPS, MUCH OF IT HAS A RING OF ACCURACY. IN PARTICULAR IT REFLECTS FEELINGS EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS IN GREAT CONFIDENCE BY MEMBERS OF WEALTHY FAMILIES AND WE THINK WIDELY BELIEVED, THAT GANSTERS WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES AND NOT LEFTIST TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE KIDNAPPING AND EXTORTION AGAINST THE SALVADORAN ECONOMIC ELITE IN RECENT YEARS.

6. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE ORIGIN OR PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT. TWO SPECULATIONS OCCUR TO US: (A) AN ATTEMPT BY THE LEFT WING OPPOSITION, IN COOPERATION WITH SYMPATHETIC

US GROUPS OR WITH CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, TO DISCREDIT THE GOES AND/OR LEAD THE REGIME TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG IS INVOLVED IN A COVERT CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT. THE DOCUMENT'S SINGLE REFERENCE TO ROMERO, HOWEVER, IS RELATIVELY SYMPATHETIC. (B) THE WORK OF A GROUP WITHIN THE SALVADORAN UPPER CLASSES TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE REGIME TO CURB CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE ESCURITY FORCES. THE LATTER SPECULATION APPEARS MORE LIKELY TO US AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE OF THE AUDIENCE TO WHICH THE DOCUMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED, ITS POINT OF VIEW AND THE APPARENT ACCESS OF ITS AUTHOR TO INSIDE INFORMATION. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THEN THE EMBASSY CONTACT MUST KNOW, AND INDEED IS PLAYING A DEVIOUS GAME.

7. I AM GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS CIRCULATING AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 03859 181556Z

BEING ASCRIBED BY MANY TO THE USG, THE EMBASSY AND THE CIA. IT COULD HEIGHTEN THE SECURITY RISK TO US PERSONNEL HERE AND ALSO HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOES. AS NOTED ABOVE, I REJECTED OUT OF HAND ANY USG ROLE IN ITS AUTHORSHIP WHEN IT WAS PRESENTED TO ME. I EXPECT THE DOCUMENT TO COME TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION FROM OTHER SOURCES AND WISH TO ALERT THE DEPARTMENT TO ITS EXISTENCE. ANY COMMENT ON THE DOCUMENT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION, INCLUDING RESPONSE TO MY CONTACT, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS ONE. COPY OF DOCUMENT BEING POUCHED TO ARA/CEN.

8. POSTSCRIPT - I JUST LEARNED THAT DEPARTING LT. COL. ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ, DEFENSE ATTACHE, ALSO RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT, PROBABLY FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, LAST FRIDAY, (AUGUST 12) BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM POST. HE WOULD HAVE COMMENTS AND POSSIBLY SOME ELIGHTENING INTERPRETATIONS. I RECOMMEND HE BE CONTACTED WHILE ON CONSULTATION NEXT WEEK AT DIA.

LUBENSKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS03859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770299-0213
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770852/aaaabsdm.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b1d6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1575837
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIRCULATION ALLEGED CIA DOCUMENT
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PINT, ES, GT, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b1d6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009